

BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE CARILLON

JULY 2020

VOLUME 21 • NUMBER 7

IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor Mary's Message . 1-2
Baker News. 2
Children & Family
Zoom VBS! 3
BakerYouth 4
Missions Corner 5
Baker News. 6
Staff 7

The Carillon is a monthly publication available in print, on-line and e-mail editions. To sign up, visit our website or contact the church office. bakermemorialchurch.org

The deadline for submitting items to the *The Carillon* is the 20th of the month.



PASTOR MARY'S MESSAGE

How Hard Could it Be?

Several times a week I find myself thinking, isn't it time to open the church for worship? Then, it seems like the next thing I hear is a news story about churches that have opened and been in the center of outbreaks, or opened and had to close. Maybe you know about the church in Union County Oregon. They didn't have many cases there until one of the churches opened up before the state guidelines allowed. That church and its few services is now the source of 236 infections, which is almost 90% of the total infections in that rural county. Only something like 320 even attended those services! A Baptist church in Georgia was open for only two weeks before they closed down indefinitely due to spread of the Corona virus. Even right here in our area, Saint John Neumann opened at the beginning of June and then had to close due to a person testing positive. It appears that they are now re-opening in July.

So, when will we open? Well, hopefully on September 13 for worship under corona virus procedures. How long will on-line church continue? We will continue having on-line church for the foreseeable future. Why is it so challenging to be the church in a covid-19 world? More on that below.

Opening up the church turns out to be harder than it seems like it would be. Jeff Hunt, our music director, has been very involved in understanding the common practice of singing. At this point it looks like singing carries enhanced risk because of how deeply we breathe when we sing, and how far the sung word carries aerosolized viral droplets. While we wait for experts to give guidelines for singers, Jeff is trying to figure out how to space singers 12-18 feet apart from each other and from anyone in the room. He is also considering how we can "make a joyful noise" together without having everyone engage in the act of singing.

Another challenge is bulletins and other items that will be held in a person's hand. The current guideline from the Northern Illinois Conference is to simply not do that. No hymnals and no paper bulletins unless they are disposed of immediately. Strictly BYOB (bring your own Bible) if you want to read the text. This means that we would need to find another way to share the worship information. Perhaps a projector and screen. Perhaps we



Continued on page 2.

PASTOR MARY'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1.

send it out by email. Perhaps both!

There are guidelines on the use of the physical space as well. These include: no reuse of a space within 24 hours, safe spacing, monitored occupancy levels, entering/exiting by different doorways, and deep cleaning protocols after use. At a practical level these mean that we will need to have services in different locations within the church. We are blessed to have three large spaces that can accommodate worship. However, it means that many people will not be able to worship in the sanctuary. Also a traffic flow pattern will need to be established for each space. Many churches are seating in order of arrival, filling their spaces from front to back. In other words, you almost certainly won't be sitting in your favorite spot even if you are in the sanctuary. Ushers would dismiss through a different door than you entered, in whatever order most makes sense for that.

Guidelines on personal screening/practices are also included. Temperature checks are recommended. People are asked to sanitize hands as they enter and before they leave. Bathroom access is allowed but the suggestion is that it be limited. No fellowship time, no passing of the peace, no use of offering plates, maybe even bring your own communion elements or use of some pre-packaged options. Pre-registration for the service you will attend is necessary.

The Spiritual Formation and Discipleship Leadership Team, and the Strategy and Administration Spiritual Leadership Team are working together to develop our "back to worship plan." The team is being led by Kristine Torio and involves a cross-section of people representing different areas of the church programming and administration. Please keep them in your prayers as they try to find welcoming, worshipful, and safe ways to worship together!

In Christ.

Pastor Mary

IT'S A BLOOMING MAKEOVER

The Cedar Avenue landscaping project is now complete. It is beautiful. Swing by the church and see for yourself. Thank you to the following people for helping with preparing the soil, planting the shrubs and perennials, and finally spreading the mulch all around the church.

Michele Claney
John Clarke
Cheryl & Chuck Freiberger
Linda Hefferin
Gary Johnson
Gerald Law
Greg Pratt
Doug Ruth
Judy Schlarb
Rick Spiers
Chris & John Stumpf
Tom Warren

Special thanks to Peter Vargulich for drawing up the plans, getting the shrubs and perennials, and supervising the project.



BEFORE



AFTER



Children & Family Ministries

FOCUS: COKESBURY'S VBS 2020,
KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE:
QUEST FOR THE KING'S ARMOR (FREE)

► **Family Bible Verse:** *Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and his powerful strength.* —Ephesians 6:10 CEB

Dear Family, Friends & Neighbors,

Come explore *Knights of North Castle* virtual VBS July 13-17 from 9-10am. North Castle is a frozen, hidden land.

The King's Knights are on a quest for the King's Armor. The King's Armor isn't your typical armor. Your child(ren) will take the role of brave Knights to discover how they

can put on the armor of God. VBS this summer invites the children to be strong in the Lord and accept the challenge to "armor up" by sharing God's love with others.

Each day the Knights will explore the Old and New Testament stories in the Bible Story Station to discover their protective

armor that includes the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Justice, the Shoes of Peace, the Shield of Faith, and the Helmet of Salvation. The Knights will learn how their armor will equip them on their own faith journey to serve and follow God. Through these interactive Bible lessons, your Knights will also discover Castle Callouts and Banner Verses to equip them for an active life with God.

The children will enjoy a high-energy opening and closing assembly with music videos. The students will expand on what they've discovered by participating

in creating armor in the Craft Station, singing new songs during the Opening/Closing, and exploring in the Science Station. Each child will receive Knights of North Castle tee shirt. For more questions contact [sstienbarger@bakermemorialchurch.org](mailto:ssstienbarger@bakermemorialchurch.org) or <http://www.bakermemorialchurch.org/kids-ministries/>.



Bible Story

• **Day 1:** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Stand True (Daniel 3)

Castle Callout: Armor Up with Truth!

• **Day 2:** David Defeats Goliath (1 Samuel 17:1-50)

Castle Callout: Armor Up with Justice!

• **Day 3:** Mary's Journey to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-20)

Castle Callout: Armor Up with Peace!

• **Day 4:** Jesus Walks on Water (Matthew 14:22-33)

Castle Callout: Armor Up with Faith!

• **Day 5:** Midnight Praise with Paul and Silas (Acts 16:16-40)

Castle Callout: Armor Up with Salvation!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

(Contact Shelly to get involved)

• **Zoom BakerKids:** 3-7 Years & Family | Wednesday 6-6:25pm

• **Zoom BakerKids:** 8-12 Years | Wednesday 6:30-7pm

REMINDERS!

Continue to find God's beauty through photos, creative cooking, musical composition, or artistic ability. Be sure to capture it on paper, canvas, or in a photo. Send me your artwork or keep it for our Art Gallery during Fellowship Coffee Hour when we are able to worship in person.

THANK YOU!

June Helping Hands: Becky, Emily, & Katie Crow; Danielle Helland; and Melissa Arndt

Blessings and VBS Joy,
Shelly Stienbarger
Director, Children & Family Ministry



Youth Ministry

Around this time every year for the past ten years, our youth and adults have embarked on a challenging mission of home repair, introspection and spiritual formation. The experiences, friendships and memories are legendary—just ask any of them who have been on the voyage. This is not another, “During these trying times” message, but I feel it important that we acknowledge the loss our young people are experiencing in this specific regard. Considering this, we have tried to supplement the stay at home with online Zoom meetings, social media posts and a few in-person visits and will continue to do so.

Our visits in June to confirm the most recent group of confirmands was a really huge blessing to everyone who was involved. We met in backyards, front yards, on patios and grassy spaces under the trees. There was a lot of hand sanitizer and masks aplenty, but most importantly, the young people were blessed, gifted and welcomed into the congregation of Baker Memorial UMC and the universal church. Rob Hale was even there at each home to record the event. On this page are pictures from the seven ceremonies officiated by Pastor Mary.

In July, we plan to complete the confirmation ceremonies and are actively working on on-boarding the new class of 2021. In the meantime, we’ll continue in our weekly church-wide Fellowship, meeting on Wednesday night with our *5 Cups of Coffee* group and engaging online.

Blessings to you,
Carl King
Director of Youth Ministry



MISSIONS CORNER

COVID-19 Has Not Stopped Ministry at Baker Memorial

MASK MINISTRY FOR MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER & CONGREGATION

We have reason to celebrate as from May through July Cheryl Freiburger, Charlene Thomas and Chris Stumpf have made over 700 masks! Mitzi Babka has mailed over 400 to MMDC! We have supplied some members with masks already as well as our Day Guests. We are holding on to some for our re-opening of the church when announced. Pete Holmes and other members continue to keep us supplied with fabric! This is an ongoing ministry, so if you can sew masks Chris will give you fabric and you can drop off completed masks to be mailed. If you have fabric or t-shirts we can use those as well!! Contact Chris at 630-709-7761 or cstumpf0308@gmail.com for more information.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK IN JULY

The next NIL Food Bank volunteer date for Baker, is July 21 from 9am-Noon at the food bank at 273 Dearborn Ct. in Geneva. If you would like to join the team or get more information contact Betty Erickson at N9FYC@aol.com

CRUISING WITH MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels volunteers still continue to deliver meals to seniors. Every month a team of volunteers delivers meals to seniors on the 3rd Tuesday. There is a short orientation that is required and then volunteers are given a badge and deliver meals that are needed and appreciated! Would you consider being a volunteer? Substitutes are also needed and would only deliver occasionally to sub for a regular that cannot deliver that week! If this is something you could do please contact Marge Meanger at marjorieme@att.net.

CASA KANE COUNTY COLLECTIONS

When we are able to gather again in our church building, we will resume our collection for the CASA Kids.

LAZARUS HOUSE URGENT NEEDS LIST

The urgent needs list from Lazarus House provides another way you can give. If you have extra and can donate, just call Lazarus at (630) 587-2144 and ask when you can drop off any of these items....

- Lysol spray disinfectant
- Cases of Bottled Water
- Latex Free/Nitrile Gloves (large)
- Ground Coffee
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Face masks



SUPPORTING OUR CAMBODIA MINISTRY

Clara Biswas, our missionary in Cambodia is in our prayers as their concerns during this time are certainly elevated with the poverty they face daily. Summer is the time of year that we normally have a special collection for our chosen missionary and her efforts. You may remember in years past we organized an M & M Fundraiser, and a Noisy Coin Fundraiser for Clara! We cannot meet in church at present and it is in our hearts to support Clara and the Street Kids of Cambodia. If you are able, the Missions Committee requests that you send a check to the church office that is marked Cambodia Ministry. Any amount is welcomed and will help us keep our commitment to Clara and her ministry! Thank you for your continued support.

LAZARUS COOKING THIS MONTH

Lazarus Cooking in July will feature Spaghetti Pizza, Tossed Salad, Italian Bread and cookies for dessert. We also provide a few breakfast items and lunches for 50 (up from 20 during COVID-19). If you are on Sign Up Genius for this ministry you will receive an email. We are still not cooking in the church kitchen so simplicity for our home kitchens is necessary. Volunteers that sign up to donate drop off items at the Stumpf home to be taken to Lazarus in one trip. Email Chris Stumpf at cstumpf0308@gmail.com to be added to the list of volunteers on Sign up Genius! We could use your help!

The Giving Garden is Growing

After a few weeks of dirty work, the garden beds have been built and planted and are indeed growing with a variety of peppers, tomatoes, beans, and more! In a month we should be harvesting already and sorting produce for use by local residents and the day guest program.

Thank you Carl King, Cheryl Frieberger, Rob Hale, Yordanka Fanslow, Ceci and Robert Hale, Gavin Hunt, Lily and Sophie Kratz, and Louis Bourbeau for building beds and to Michele Claney, Karrie Kratz, Judy Schlarb, Kim Starr, and Pastor Mary Zajac for donations; Your gifts will give hope to our neighbors in need.

If you have a green thumb and a passion for fresh veggies and would like to help care for our Giving Garden please contact Mandy Hale at aghale73@gmail.com or call/text 630-306-9090.



Day Guest Summer Needs

Our Day Guest program continues to distribute bagged lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please consider signing up for meals at <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/z9dyzd>. A big thank you to everyone who has donated.

In addition to the lunches, we have food in a plastic tote at the Cedar Street entrance for those in need. We can use pop-top cans of baked beans/chicken/beef stew/pasta/fruit, individually wrapped cheese, small bags of chips, small packages of cookies, Gatorade, small boxes of cereal and protein milk (available at Costco).

Also, Summer clothing is needed. We could use men's size medium and large clothing, pants in size 32/32 and 34/32, light weight athletic pants and rain ponchos.

Please drop donated items off between 11am and 1pm on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

Join Us For Zoom Fellowship



You're invited to come to Zoom Fellowship at 10am on Sundays. Grab a cup of coffee and join us as we gather together and connect via video conferencing. We

hope that you take the time to experience fellowship in a different way! An email with the link is sent out each week and published in the *Weekly Word*.

Don't Miss Church Online

To view our weekly worship videos, go to the church website. Note that we've added something new—attendance

and prayer requests. Click on the attendance button above the sermon video and fill in the short form. You also have the option of adding a prayer request. Go to bakermemorialchurch.org.

Thank You Notes Received

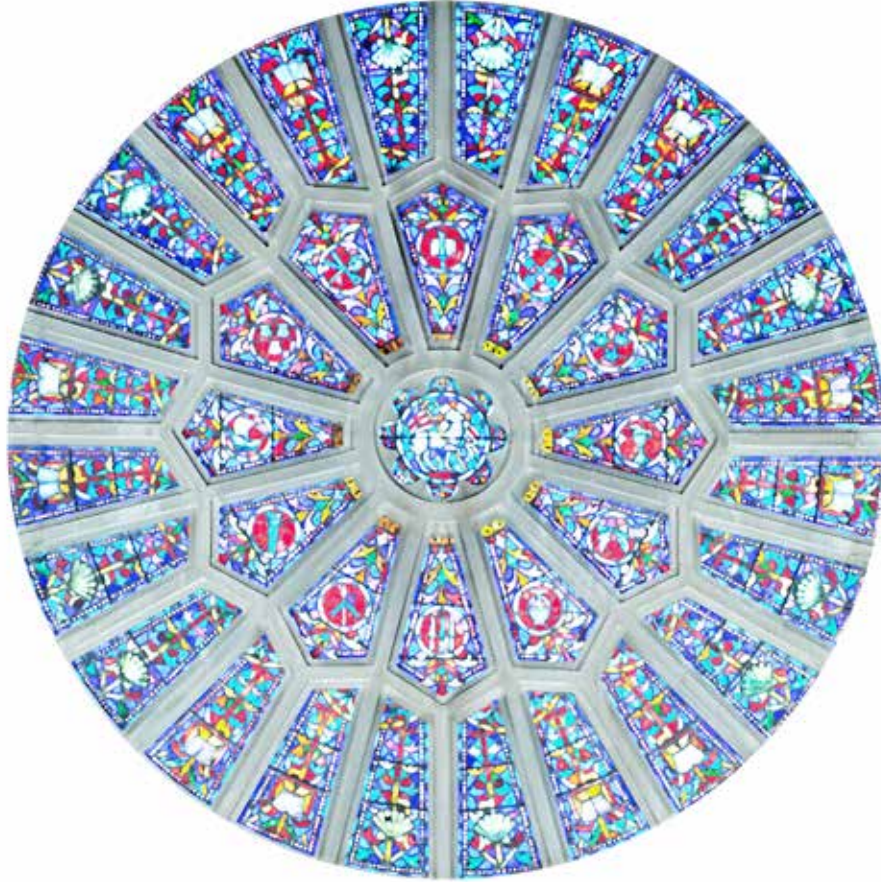
The Missions Ministry wanted to share two thank you notes. The first thank you is from Community School District 303. As a result of Dave and Loretta Wilson's Christmas tree sale last December, a donation of \$900 was sent to pay off school lunch debt. "Thank you for your generosity to the students enrolled in D303."

The second note is from the Midwest Distribution Center for the donation of face masks sewn by church members. "Each donation is a blessing God uses to bless you and others. Your donation will leave Midwest Mission and be a practical example of God's love in the world..." To read more about this project, see the Missions report on page 5.

A Gentle Word About Giving

The work of God continues at and through Baker Memorial UMC in these difficult times. Our staff is hard at work seeking to check-in with the whole congregation on a regular basis. Our work with our Day Guests continues. We are learning how to do worship on-line. As you are able, please seek to keep up with your giving during this time, or even accelerate it so we can continue to meet our payroll and bills. We understand that some people will not be able to do this and are working to manage spending accordingly. All of you are in our prayers.





STAFF

Rev. Mary Zajac | *Senior Pastor*

Jeffery Hunt | *Director, Music Ministry*

Mark Edwards | *Organist*

Shelly Stienbarger | *Director, Children & Family Ministry*

Kurt Heinz | *Director of Administration*

Carl E. King | *Director, Youth & Young Adult Ministries*

Michele Claney | *Creative Director*

Judy Schlarb | *Finance Manager*

Lita Jimenez | *Church Accountant*

Karl Lescelius | *Building Maintenance Manager*

BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A traditional church for a modern world

307 CEDAR AVENUE | ST. CHARLES, IL 60174
630-584-6680 | BAKERUMC.ORG